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Garden City, NY – On Monday, Rep. Steve Israel (D – N.Y.) Andy Parton, Executive Director of Cradle of Aviation Museum, joined together to honor Long Islanders who worked on the mission to put a man on the moon. Twenty individuals who worked on the Grumman-built lunar landing module attended the celebration, along with dozens of students from a local space camp sporting homemade spacesuits.

“Because of the innovation and hard work of the men and women on Long Island, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were able to land on the surface of the moon on July 20, 1969, 40 years ago. President Kennedy’s call in 1962 to put a man on the moon by the end of the decade was one of the most inspiring and immense challenges ever presented to the American people. And we did it,” said Rep. Israel. “Today’s challenges remain daunting, and it’s Kennedy’s words and work of these Long Islanders that let us know – if they could do it then, we can do it now.”

On September 12, 1962, President John F. Kennedy challenged America to, “Go to the moon this decade... not because it is easy, but because it is hard.”

Long Island, home to Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation, played an integral part in the design and engineering of the lunar landing module. On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon in the Grumman Lunar Module LM-5 "Eagle." Six LM's successfully landed 12 men on the Moon between 1969 and 1972. Two lunar modules are on display at the Cradle of Aviation Museum.

On June 18, the House passed the FY10 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Act, which included \$18.2 billion for NASA.

Rep. Israel has long called for new program for advanced energy research and development modeled after the Apollo Program. Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Committee.